

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9849

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3960

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, BG, US
SUBJ: BANGLADESH PRESIDENT ZIA'S INTEREST IN U.S. VISIT

REF: DACCA 3882

1. WHEN I CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN
JUNE 23 FORMALLY TO REQUEST AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RECENT
BOMBING ATTEMPT ON THE EMBASSY GENERAL SERVICES BUILDING,
HUSAIN AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE OF A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT.
HUSAIN SAID THAT A VISIT WAS A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE
TO THE PRESIDENT. HE THEN RELATED THE VISIT TO THE PRESI-
DENT'S NEED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY IN THE DECEMBER ELEC-
TIONS AND TO THE PRESIDENT'S DESIRE, BY CREATING A PROPER
BALANCE IN HIS RELATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN POWERS, TO BE
ABLE TO CREATE A SIMILAR BALANCE BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHT
WITHIN HIS PRESENT AND FUTURE GOVERNMENT.

2. I TOLD HUSAIN THAT I PERSONALLY BELIEVED A VISIT TO
THE U.S. WAS MOST DESIRABLE: I REMAINED VERY DOUBTFUL,
HOWEVER, THAT A VISIT COULD BE SCHEDULED FOR THE REASONS
I HAD ALREADY GIVEN HIM. I FURTHER DOUBTED THAT THE
U.S. SHOULD BE A FACTOR IN THE PROCESS BY WHICH INTERNAL
BANGLADESHI POLITICAL PROCESSES DETERMINE THE NATURE OF
THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT. I TOLD HIM I WOULD OF CORSE CONVEY
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HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT: ZIA'S INTEREST IN A U.S. VISIT HAS NOW BEEN
PRESENTED TO US IN A SUFFICIENTLY FORMAL WAY THAT WE WILL
HAVE TO RESPOND SIMILARLY. UNFORTUNATELY, THE BDG IS
LIKELY TO EXAGGERATE THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF EITHER
A POSITIVE OR A NEGATIVE REPLY.

SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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